HEROINES OF MEMORIAL DAY---MONUMENT TO BE DEDICATED TO THEM

MRS. BELLE REYNOLDS.

KADY BROWNELL (in army costume).

BY JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.
Washington, D. C.

THE perennial Memorial Day author sings loud and long to the praise of the heroes of our Civil War, but little to the glory of the heroines of that awful struggle. Thus the younger generations among us know little as to the role which women played in the thrilling drama of those memorable years.

A news hook upon which we might hang a discussion of their part in that drama is the fact that there now lies before Congress a bill providing for a monumental building in Washington to be erected as a memorial to the women of the Civil War and as a home for the American National Red Cross. Architects have already completed designs for this projected memorial, upon which it is proposed to expend $700,000.

Six Woman Officers.

Six women are reputed to have won officers' commissions by their service in the Civil War. One of the most famous of these was Major Pauline Cushman, an actress of French and Spanish descent, who was born in New Orleans in 1833. While playing in Louisville, in 1863, she entered the secret service of the Union army. One of her first bold strokes, to allay suspicion, was to toast the Confederacy from the stage of Wood's Theatre, for which act she was, as she had expected, expelled from the company. Then she took the field as a spy, but was soon captured by Jack Morgan, the guerilla raider, who turned her over to Forrest, who let her go. Later she fell into the hands of Bragg, and on being court-martialed was condemned, but fell ill. While she was being nursed for the gallows Bragg's men fled before Rosecrans's advance and she was found on her bed by the Union troops. As a reward for two severe wounds received while on duty Garfield is said to have given her the rank of major.

A captain's commission was personally conferred by Lincoln on Mrs. Emily E. Woodley, of Philadelphia, who served as a Civil War nurse, and who at the age of seventy-three died in that city, May 15, 1908. A major's commission was conferred during the Civil War by Governor Yates, of Illinois, upon Mrs. Belle Reynolds, of Shelbourne Falls, Miss., who followed her husband to war and shared with him the hardships of the Union troops.

Confederate Woman Officers.

Two women held officers' commissions in the Confederate army, the more famous of these being Sue Mondey, or Lieutenant Flowers, who served in Kentucky on Captain Berry's staff. She wore a full Confederate uniform, with a jaunty plumed hat, from beneath which escaped a wealth of dark brown hair in luxuriant curl. She had a beautiful figure, a dark piercing eye and a soft and musical voice. She was a bold rider and a daring leader. Prior to her command with Berry she had been associated with Captain Alexander, and was present at his tragic death in Southern Kentucky.

The other woman commissioned as a Confederate officer was Captain Sallie Tompkins, who established and maintained at her own expense the Robertson Hospital, where 1,300 wounded Confederate soldiers were treated between July 1, 1861, and June 1, 1865. It was when the Confederate Secretary of War required all military hospitals to be in charge of an army or naval officer that President Davis commissioned Miss Tompkins a captain of infantry.

Not entitled to mention upon the proposed memorial as yet, for she is very much alive—in fact, busy in Washington at present, writing—is Dr. Mary E. Walker, who since the Civil War has been famed for her persistence in wearing male attire. "Dr. Mary" is the only American woman who ever held an officer's commission in the regular army, and who received the prized military medal of honor. At the outbreak of the Civil War she was one of the few of our countrywomen to have a diploma from a medical college. She had practiced for some time at Oswego when she appeared in Washington to offer her services at the War Department, which commissioned her first as an assistant surgeon without pay, and later as an assistant surgeon of regulars with the rank of first lieutenant.

Many Narrow Escapes.

While she was detailed with Sherman's army an epidemic broke out in territory overrun with Champ Furgeson's bushwhackers, which horde was a terror to both armies alike, and although Furgeson had declared that he would kill every "blue coat" captured, Dr. Mary rode alone to make her rounds of the sick country folk. She had many narrow escapes, and at last, while turning a bend in a road, found herself confronted by Furgeson and his band, who commanded her to surrender.

"Certainly, sir, as I am unarmed," she replied to Furgeson. "But first will you kindly escort me to the bedside of a dying woman, whom, as a physician, I am going to attend?"

Furgeson let her pass. Later she was captured and held prisoner at Castle Thunder, Richmond, for four months, after which she was exchanged for Dr. Lightfoot, of Tennessee.

The War Department has record of about a score of women who, during the Civil War, served in the ranks, in various capacities. One of the most picturesque of these Amazons was Kady Brownell, the daughter of a Scotch soldier, who was serving in Caffroria, Africa, at the time of her birth, in 1842. Coming to America, Kady married Robert S. Brownell, orderly-sergeant in the company of carbineers, First Rhode Island Infantry, with which she marched off to war as color-bearer.

In July, 1861, while marching from the Potomac to Richmond, her regiment was brought under fire, and undaunted by shot and shell she stuck to her colors, around which her comrades rallied to victory. At the end of her term she re-enlisted with her husband, and the two went with Burnside to penetrate the country south of Richmond. She now donned the coast uniform and served not only as color bearer, but as nurse and daughter of the regiment. Upon the battlefield she gathered blankets from the dead to comfort the wounded, and many a man in her company, her husband among them, owed his life to her careful nursing.

No woman had a more thrilling career in the struggle of these memorable years than did Sarah Edmonds, a native of Magnadanick, New Brunswick, who before the war adopted male attire and the name "Frank Thompson," the better to ply her avocation as a Bible agent through the Canadian wilds. Crossing into Michigan at the outbreak of the war, she enlisted under the same name in the "Flint Union Grays," shared the defeat at Bull Run, escaped to Alexandria, and rejoined the Union forces at Yorktown, to take the place of a spy who had just been executed by the Confederates. Disguised as a contraband, she crossed the enemy's lines, and after having been forced by a Southern officer to wheel gravel for a breastwork, escaped back to the Federals with much-needed information.

Kept Secret Twenty Years.

Later, returning through the enemy's lines in the guise of a woman peddler, she did further spy service of value, and not until twenty years after parting with her old commander did she surprise him with the unsuspected intelligence that his gallant "Frank Thompson" was a woman. Two years after the war she married L. H. Seelye, of La Porte, Tex.

A Civil War heroine who enlisted from other than purely patriotic motives, was Annie Lillybridge, a sixteen-year-old girl of Detroit, Mich. In the spring of 1862, she was employed in a dry goods store in Detroit, where she fell in love with a lieutenant of the Twenty-first Michigan infantry.

The thought of being parted from her lover made the girl so unhappy that she resolved to share his danger and be near him. Purchasing male attire, she enlisted in Captain Kavanaugh's company of the Twenty-first Regiment, and managed to keep her secret from even the object of her affections, who met her daily. During the campaign in Kentucky, she shared with him the dangers and trials of camp life, endured long marches and slept on the ground without a murmur. She became a favorite in the regiment, and Colonel Stephens frequently detailed her as regimental clerk. When on picket duty she received a severe wound in the arm, and was sent to the hospital at Louisville, where her secret was discovered.

A Convent-Bred Amazon.

In the spring of 1863 a captain arrived at Louisville, Ky., accompanied by a young soldier apparently about the age of seventeen. He immediately attracted the attention of the colonel, who detailed him for duty at the barracks. A few days later the startling fact that the supposed young man was a woman became established by a soldier reared in her town. Her story is of interest:

"Frank Martin" (her assumed name) was born in Bristol, Tenn., and was educated at the convent in Wheeling, Va., where she acquired an excellent education and many accomplishments. After leaving the convent and bidding farewell to her parents she enlisted in the 2d East Tennessee Cavalry and accompanied the Army of the Cumberland to Nashville. She was in the heat of battle at Murfreesboro and was severely wounded in the shoulder, but fought gallantly and waded Stone River into Murfreesboro on the memorable Sunday on which the Union forces were driven back. After her sex was discovered Gen. Rosecrans, although favorably impressed with her bravery, would not allow her to remain in the service and personally superintended the arrangements for her safe transportation to her parents.

Another girl enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment as "Charles Martin" when scarcely more than thirteen, went to the front as a drummer boy and was a universal favorite with officers and men. Not until after many months, when she was stricken with fever and sent to a hospital in Philadelphia, did it become known to any one in the regiment that the fair drummer boy was in truth a girl.

A Modern Joan of Arc.

One of the strangest cases of devotion to country was brought out in the enlistment of a young girl at Brooklyn, N. Y., who, like Joan of Arc, believed she was called by Providence to go to the front and deliver her country from peril. Her parents sent her to a town in Michigan that change of climate and scene might cure her of her supposed delusions, but she succeeded in making her escape, and, going to Detroit, enlisted with a Michigan regiment as a drummer boy. With the Army of the Cumberland she endured all the hardships of march, camp and battle. Her sex did not become known until the battle of Lookout Mountain, when she received a fatal wound.

While near Chattanooga Colonel Burke, of the Tenth Ohio, exchanged a large number of prisoners with the Confederates. Among the Union troops received was a particularly handsome young soldier, who gave the name "Frank Henderson." It developed later that this soldier was a young girl, and that she and her brother had enlisted together at the outbreak of the war in the Eleventh Illinois. The pair were orphans, and the girl could not endure the thought of being separated from the brother, who had been her only companion from babyhood. At the expiration of her enlistment in this regiment she was mustered out, and next enlisted in the Third Illinois, where her sex was not discovered, and in which regiment she made a most excellent record, being wounded in one of the engagements. She was again discharged and sent home, only to re-enlist in the Nineteenth Illinois, serving in all the battles of Colonel O'Mara's regiment, and finally being taken prisoner at Holly Springs. She was now taken to Atlanta, Ga., where, in attempting to escape, she was shot in the leg, and even during her confinement in the prison hospital her sex was not suspected. After recovering she was sent to Graysville, where she was exchanged and sent to her Illinois home.

Brave Mary Owens.

Perhaps in all the annals of war there could not be found a more romantic story than that of Mary Owens, who enlisted at Danville, Pa. This woman wanted to accompany her husband to the war and share with him its hardships and its victories. She went to the recruiting office, passed the examination and gave the name "John Evans." Side by side, the faithful pair fought until a ball from the enemy killed the husband. After he had been buried the soldier wife took up her musket and marched with her comrades until the next battle, when she, in her turn, was felled by a bullet. When able to be sent home she was discharged, and upon her papers was written: "A more faithful soldier never shouldered a musket." A few weeks after she had returned to her desolate home there came to comfort her a handsome baby boy.

A Ballet Girl Soldier.

There is a record also of Fannie Wilson, who enlisted in the Twenty-fourth New Jersey that she might serve with her sweetheart, a member of the same regiment. He knew nothing of her action, but she saw him every day and came near being assigned to the same mess tent with him. The regiment fought through the first campaign in Western Virginia, the girl soldier carrying herself valiantly, but after the command was ordered before Vicksburg her lover was wounded, and, without revealing her sex, Miss Wilson nursed him. She made herself known to him just before he died. Then, falling ill herself, as soon as he had been buried, she was sent, with a large number of sick and wounded, to Cairo, Ill., where her sex was revealed. Upon her recovery she was dismissed from the service. Now, being thrown upon her own resources in Cairo, she for a time served an engagement as a ballet girl, but soon went to Memphis and enlisted again, this time in a cavalry regiment, the Third Illinois, with which she served until arrested as a woman spy in man's clothing. Upon establishing her innocence she was provided with an outfit of woman's clothes and sent back North.

Those bloody days produced no Amazon more plucky than Bridget Divers, who went out with the First Michigan, with which she served variously as acting chaplain, vivandiere, daughter of the regiment, nurse, hospital steward, ward master and sometimes as surgeon. Sharing all the dangers of the brigade in the field, she had several horses killed under her and lost eight or ten, altogether, in the course of the war. She slept on the ground like a soldier and after the war joined a detachment that crossed the Rockies for the Indian service.

The Irony of Fate.

One of the few women pensioned by the government for Civil War service other than nursing was Mrs. Sarah E. Thompson, a Tennesseean, who led a force of Union cavalry to the hiding place of General John T. Morgan upon the eve of his death in battle. It was the irony of fate that after performing such perilous service unscathed, Mrs. Thompson, a generation after the war, should have been killed by a street car in Washington, D. C., where she was employed as a clerk in the treasury.

Of course, no record of this kind can omit the late Clara Barton, who, as a free lance nurse, became famed as the Florence Nightingale of the Civil War, and who in later years headed our Red Cross Society, before its reorganization.

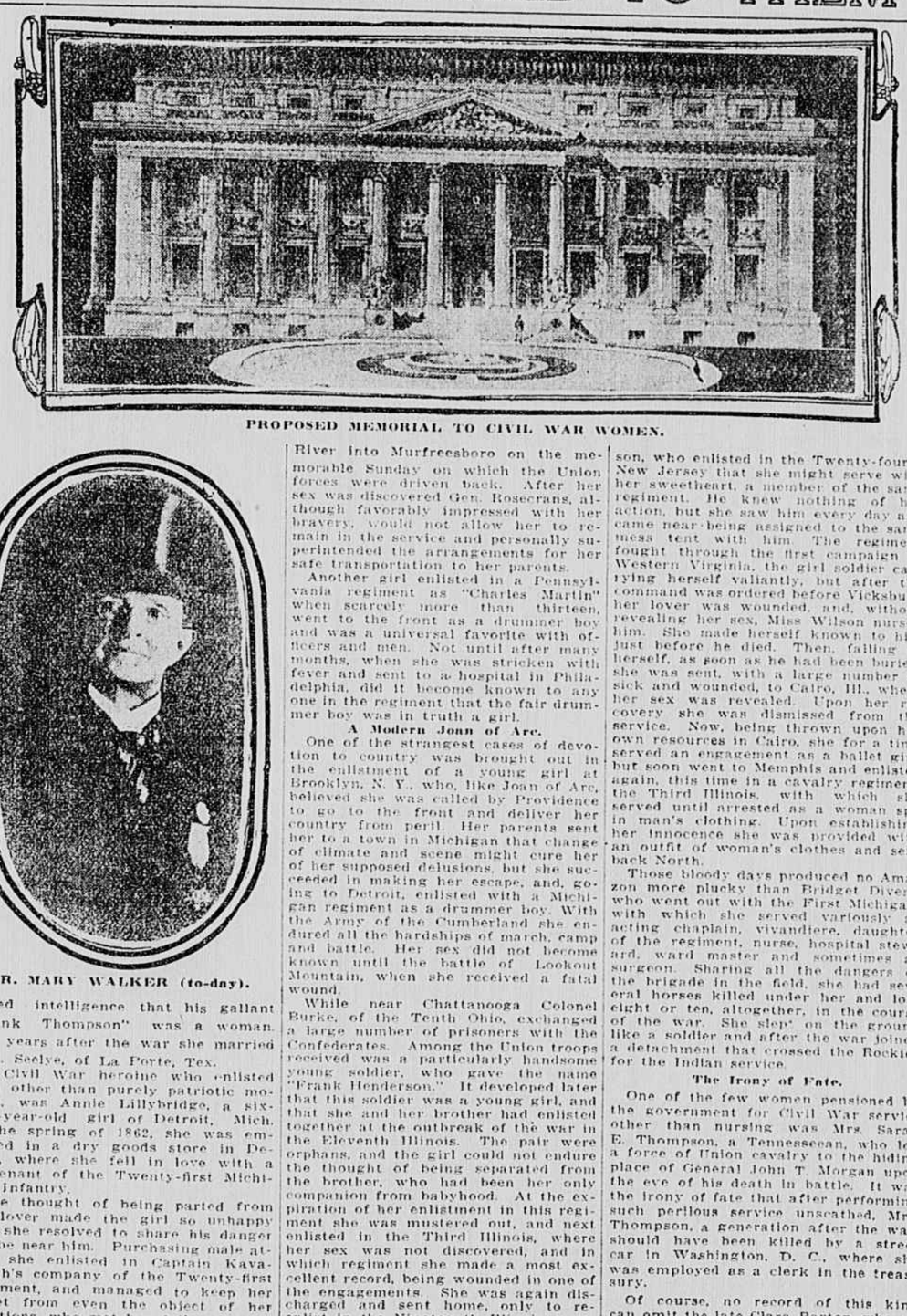
So far as known the country boasts of only six monuments erected to the memory of individual heroines of the Civil War. On the battlefield of Gettysburg there is one dedicated by the Women's Relief Corps of Iowa as a memorial to Jennie Wade, who was killed in her home the morning of July 3, while baking bread for the Union soldiers during the battle.

There is a monument at Adrian, Mich., to "Aunt Laura" Haviland, a Quakeress, who did mighty things for the release of slaves, and was eminent as a nurse during the Civil War.

Mary Ann Bickerdyke, another famous army nurse, has a monument in the public park at Galesburg, Ill.

On the battleground of Guilford, N. C., is a bronze statue of Mrs. Karenhappuck Norman Turner, who rode on horseback from Maryland to Guilford and nursed to health her son, who had been badly wounded in the battle.

And at Gadsden, Ala., there is a statue of Emma Samson, a Confederate heroine, who guided General Forrest over the mountains of Alabama.



PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO CIVIL WAR WOMEN.

DR. MARY WALKER (to-day).

MISS JENNIE WADE,
Killed at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa., July, 1863.

CLARA BARTON.